

Serial No. 09/487,265

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 3 in accordance with the following:

1. (Previously Presented) A message processing apparatus, comprising:  
a message generation unit generating a job completion date message to which attached is an entry space for entering a completion date offer indicating a completion date a receiver of a group who has been assigned to the job desires to agree to place in the completion date offer entry space in the message;  
an acquisition unit transmitting the job completion date messages to a plurality of receivers of the group and receiving each completion date offer that is entered by the receivers;  
and  
a control unit causing a terminal device of the transmitter apparatus at the transmitter of the message to display the completion date offers of the receivers together with a decision result with respect to the completion date offers of the receivers.
2. (Previously Presented) The message processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the control unit causes the information indicating the ratio of the persons who have completed respectively assigned parts of the job to be displayed together with a title of the message in response to one of a display request of a user and on fulfilling predetermined conditions.
3. (Currently Amended) The message processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the control unit causes the terminal apparatus to display a completion state table comprising the information indicating the ratio of the persons who have completed the respectively assigned parts of the job among all the plurality of receivers of the message doing the job and the title of the message.

4. (Previously Presented) The message processing apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:

a message generation unit generating a message provided with a confirmation button by which each receiver of the message can individually inform that the receiver has completed the assigned part of the job to the transmitter of the message; and

wherein the control unit judges when the confirmation button is activated by a receiver of the message that the receiver has completed the assigned part of the job and counts the number of receivers who have activated the confirmation button for causing the terminal apparatus to display the information indicating the ratio of the persons having completed the assigned parts of the job.

5. (canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The message processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the control unit causes the terminal apparatus at the transmitter of the message or at the receiver of the message to mandatory display the information indicating the ratio of the persons who have completed the respectively assigned parts of the job among all the plurality of receivers of the message doing the job that is associated with the message.

7. (Previously Presented) The message processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the control unit causes the terminal apparatus to display the information indicating the ratio of the persons who have completed the assigned parts of the job when one of a specified date for completing is a current and when the ratio of the persons who have completed the assigned parts of job reaches a preassigned value.

8. (Previously Presented) The message processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the control unit causes the terminal apparatus to display the information indicating the ratio of the persons who have completed the assigned parts of the job on a day specified by a transmitter of the message in advance.

9 - 14 (canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A message processing system constituted from a plurality of terminal apparatuses each having a capability of displaying a message and a message processing apparatus capable of processing the message, wherein the message processing system comprises:

a message generation unit generating a job completion date message to which attached is an entry space for entering a completion date offer indicating a completion date a receiver of a group who has been assigned to the job desires to agree to place in the completion date offer entry space in the message;

an acquisition unit transmitting the job completion date messages to a plurality of receivers and receiving each completion date offer entered by the receivers, and

a control unit causing one of the the terminal apparatuses to display the completion date offers of the receivers together with a decision result with respect to the completion date offers of the receivers .

16. (Previously Presented) The message processing system according to claim 15, wherein

the control unit causes the apparatus to display an offered term table comprising the name of a receiver, the offered new date term of a receiver, an approved or rejected status of the transmitter for the offer.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of managing messages, comprising:  
generating a job completion date message to which attached is an entry space for entering a completion date offer indicating a completion date a receiver of a group who has been assigned to the job desires to agree to place in the completion date offer entry space in the message;

transmitting the job completion date messages to a plurality of receivers of the group and receiving each completion date offer that is entered by the receivers; and

causing a terminal device of the transmitter apparatus at the transmitter of the message to display the completion date offers of the receivers together with a decision result with respect to the completion date offers of the receivers.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of managing messages according to claim 17, further comprises causing the apparatus to display an offered term table comprising the

name of a receiver, a new date offered term of a receiver, an approved or rejected status of the transmitter for the offer.

19 – 20 (canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium for controlling a computer and storing a message management program comprising:

a first program part for generating a job completion date message to which attached is an entry space for entering a completion date offer indicating a completion date a receiver of a group who has been assigned to the job desires to agree to place in the completion date offer entry space in the message;

a second program part for transmitting the job completion date messages to a plurality of receivers of the group and receiving each completion date offer that is entered by the receivers; and

a third program part for causing a terminal device of the transmitter apparatus at the transmitter of the message to display the completion date offers of the receivers together with a decision result with respect to the completion date offers of the receivers

22. (Previously Presented) A message processing apparatus, comprising:

a message generation unit generating a message to which attached is an entry space for entering a completion date offer indicating a completion date each receiver desires to agree in place of the completion date stated in the message; and

a control unit causing a terminal apparatus to display in a table form the title of the message, names of a plurality of the receivers, the completion dates entered into the entry spaces attached to the message by the plurality of the receivers respectively together with a decision result with respect to the completion date offers of the receivers.

23. (Previously Presented) The message processing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the control unit causing the apparatus to display an offered term table comprising the name of a receiver, a new date offered term of a receiver, an approved or rejected status of the transmitter for the offer.

24 – 28 (canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The message processing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

an acquisition unit transmitting a job completion message and receiving a job completion reply from persons in a group who have been assigned part of a job and obtaining information indicating whether each of a plurality of receivers of a message, who in a group do a job associated with the message, has completed an assigned part of the job; and

a control unit, based on the information obtained by the acquisition unit, causing a terminal apparatus to display information indicating a ratio of persons who have received the message and completed the assigned parts of the job to all the persons who have received the message and have been assigned the parts of the job.